**EXAMPLES FOR FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE NOTES** *Label/explain the examples as we go through them in the presentation to help yourself study for a test later!*

1. John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (first three examples)*:*

“(Jim Casy’s) was a long head, bony, tight of skin and set on a neck as stringy and muscular as a celery stalk.”

2. “flourlike dust”

3. “(Tom, confronting the man who drives the truck) licked his lips like a dog, two licks, one in each direction from the middle.”

4. from “A Red, Red Rose” by Robert Burns:

O my luve’s like a red, red rose

That’s newly sprung in June;

O my luve’s like the melodie

That’s sweetly played in tune

5. “The Drum” by Nikki Giovanni

daddy says the world is

a drum tight and hard

and i told him

i'm gonna beat

out my own rhythm

6. Carey McWilliams:

“With rare ingenuity, Aimee [McPherson] kept the Ferris wheels and the merry‑ go‑round of religion going night and day.”

7. Hodding Carter “[Huey Long] designated his old benefactor, O.K. Allen of

Winnfield, as the apostolic choice for the next full term.”

8. “Silos” by Rita Dove

Like martial swans in spring paraded against the city sky’s

shabby blue, they were always too white and

suddenly there.

They were never fingers, never xylophones, although once

a stranger said they put him in mind of Pan’s pipes

and all the lost songs of Greece. But to the townspeople

they were like cigarettes, the smell chewy and bitter

like a field shorn of milkweed, or beer brewing, or

a fingernail scorched over a flame.

No, no, exclaimed the children. They’re a fresh packet of chalk,

dreading the math work.

They were masculine toys. They were tall wishes. They

were the ribs of the modern world.

9. “Apparently with no surprise” by Emily Dickinson

Apparently with no surprise

to any happy Flower

The Frost beheads it at its play‑‑

In accidental power

The blonde Assassin passes on‑‑

The Sun proceeds unmoved

To measure off another Day

For an approving God

10. from “Question” by May Swenson

Body my house

my horse my hound

What will I do

When you are fallen

Where will I sleep

How will I ride

What will I hunt

11. from “Persimmons” by Li‑Young Lee

My mother said every persimmon has a sun

inside, something golden, glowing,

warm as my face.

Once, in the cellar, I found two wrapped in newspaper

forgotten and not yet ripe.

I took them and set them both on my bedroom windowsill,

where each morning a cardinal

sang. The sun, the sun.

12. from “Persimmons” by Li‑Young Lee

Other words

that got me into trouble were

*fight* and *fright, wren* and *yarn*

Fight was what I did when I was frightened,

fright was what I felt when I was fighting

13. From The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

“We aimed for no more than to have dominion over every creature that moved upon the earth.”

14. Your friend hits a hole‑in‑one and you say “Not bad.”

15. Your friend earns 20% on an exam and you explain “at least you didn’t throw off

the grading curve.”

16. word from the White House,

the Crown was handed down to her son,

from the cradle to the grave,

use your brain

17. “The pen is mightier than the sword.”

18. Annie Dillard: “The birds have started singing in the valley. Their February squawks and naked chirps are fully fledged now, and long lyrics fly in the air.”

19. Can you lend me a hand?

Did you see his new wheels?

I need your muscles for a minute.

Give me a second!

Let’s go get a bite to eat.

20. The police department arrived at midnight.

The US Marines delivered food and transportation to Southeast Asia.

The IRS called about last year’s deductions.

The University of Utah went unbeaten this season.

21. jumbo shrimp, easy problem, perfect mistake, happy accident, serious joke

22. Lord Roseberry: “a practical mystic”

23. Examples from Oscar Wilde:

A man can be happy with any woman as long as he does not love her.

I am not young enough to know everything.

I love acting. It is so much more real than life.

I can resist everything except temptation.

The pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple.

The play was a great success, but the audience was a disaster.

Thirty‑five is a very attractive age. London society is full of women of the highest birth who have, of their own free choice, remained thirty‑five for years.

24. G. K. Chesterton: “A yawn may be defined as a silent yell.”

25. G. K. Chesterton: “His soul will never starve for exploits or excitement who is wise enough to be made a fool of.”

26. Thomas Hood: “A cannon‑ball took off his legs, so he laid down his arms.”

27. Frank Muir: “During the two previous centuries musical styles went in one era and out of the other . . .”

28. A: I’m tired of blonde jokes. I’m blonde and I happen to be really smart!

B: Oh, yeah? What smart things do you know?

A: Well, I just learned all of the state capitals.

B: Really? Then what’s the capital of Washington?

A: Duh! It’s W!

29. Mark Twain: “Even as a schoolboy poultry‑raising was a study with me, and I may say without egotism that as early as the age of seventeen I was acquainted with all the best and speediest methods of raising chickens, from raising them off a roost by burning Lucifer matches under their noses, down to lifting them off a fence on a frosty night by insinuating a warm board under their feet.”

30. Thomas Kane: “A bad pun is regrettable. But a good pun‑‑ one both clever and revealing‑‑ is worth making.” Thomas Kane

31. Laurence Durrell: “Joanna, pursued by the three monks, ran about the room, leaping over tables and chairs, sometimes throwing a dish or a scriptural maxim at her pursuers.”

32. Ambrose Bierce: **Piano**, n. A parlor utensil for subduing the impenitent visitor. It is operated by depressing the keys of the machine and the spirits of the audience.

33. loud clothing, a velvet‑ voiced singer, a sweet sound, a sour face, a hot girl, a sharp reply, a smooth voice, a soft noise, a bitter comment, a cold look, a gravelly voice . . .

34. from “Façades” by Edith Sitwell: “The enormous and gold‑rayed rustling sun.”

35. from “Mandalay” by Rudyard Kipling: “An’ the dawn comes up like thunder”